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Identical letters dated 11 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In accordance with paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), and in reference to the attack on Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib, that took place on 4 April 2017, I would like to bring to your attention the report by the Ministry of Health dated 11 April 2017 on the blood and urine analysis performed on samples from the victims of the attack who were treated in Turkey (see annex I).

Please also find enclosed a press statement by the Ministry of Health dated 6 April 2017 on the victims of the attack who were treated in Turkey (see annex II).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

17-06118 (E) 210417

Please recycle

Annex I to the identical letters dated 11 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Analysis of blood and urine samples taken from victims treated in Turkey who were exposed to chemical warfare agents in Syria

Blood and urine samples taken on 7 April 2017 from 10 patients being treated in Hatay, who were exposed to chemical warfare agents in Idlib on 4 April 2017, were received and analysed by the Turkish Public Health Agency Chemical Warfare Agents Diagnosis and Verification Laboratory on 8 April 2017.

Blood and urine samples taken on 6 April 2017 during the autopsies of three victims who died in Adana were received and analysed by the Turkish Public Health Agency Chemical Warfare Agents Diagnosis and Verification Laboratory on 10 April 2017.

The method optimization of chromatographic devices for analysis and the preprocessing of the samples have been carried out.

Devices used:

Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry

Liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry

Isopropyl methyl phosphonic acid, a metabolite of sarin gas, was detected in the urine samples of the patient named Ahmed El Salih, who is still under treatment in Hatay, as well as in the samples from the victims named Sait Hüseyin, Esme El Hasan and Muhammed Avat, who have died.

In the urine samples of the Syrian citizen named Sait Hüseyin, who has died, isopropyl methyl phosphonic acid, the metabolite of the chemical warfare agent sarin gas, was identified through the use of two different methods, meeting the international standards of identification set by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

These laboratory results verify that the attacking agent is sarin gas.